

Interview with Marie Ligenza [ML]
Occupation: Fisherman's wife
Port Community: Chatham, MA
Interviewer: Azure Cygler
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Logger/Transcriber: Elizabeth Wetterhahn
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Chatham, MA

Interview:

[00:00]

AC: Ok, just to begin, this Azure Cygler and I'm here Riena Ligenza in Chatham, MA. It's August 22, 2012. And Riena, if you could, just for the record, state that you've signed the release form.

ML: I signed a release form for Azure to interview me.

AC: Thank you.

ML: Yeah.

AC: And if you could give me your full name and your address?

ML: It'd be Marie Ligenza. And Riena is my nickname.

AC: Oh, I didn't know that. Perfect, good to know. And your husband fishes out of Chatham?

ML: Yes.

AC: Ok. What's his vessel's name?

ML: The *Riena Marie*.

AC: Excellent. And if you don't mind my asking, how young you are?

ML: I'm 58.

AC: Ok, beautiful. Give me a little bit of background about yourself. How you came to live in Chatham and your family structure.

ML: I lived in Hyannis and I worked in Hyannis when I was younger. And then I met Teddy and I moved to Chatham. And we bought this house in 1981.

AC: And you're from?

ML: I'm originally from Buffalo, NY.

AC: Ok.

ML: And then I moved to Hyannis, and now I'm here.

AC: Ok. And you met Ted in the '80s you said?

ML: Early '80s, yeah.

AC: And he was already fishing at that point?

ML: Yeah, he was fishing.

AC: And your children?

ML: I have three sons: Michael, he's 40, from previous. And William, who is 30. And John is 26.

AC: And they've all been fishing?

ML: They're all fishing, yes. They all shellfish. They've been on sea scallop boats.

AC: Yeah.

ML: And Michael fishes currently on a quahog boat, right Ted?

TL: Well, he's clamming at the moment.

ML: He's clamming at the moment, right now.

TL: He and the captain are clamming.

ML: Ok.

AC: And how does that feel, to have the four men in your life, all potentially all on the water at the same time? How has that been for you, to be in a fishing family? How does that feel?

ML: Well, it's good. I wouldn't have chosen it for them, cause they have to work so hard. And, you know, I worry that they're not enjoying their life enough, that they're spending so much time fishing. That's what I worry. And it's always a concern cause you never know if they could hurt themselves, and they don't have insurance.

AC: Yeah.

ML: You know what I mean? And there's always stuff. You know, the list goes on.

AC: My goodness, I don't know how you do it as a mother. I don't know how you do it. You're an amazing family.

And are they mostly inshore? Just fishing and they're home each night?

[03:12]

ML: Yes. Well, Willy sometimes fishes offshore for a while. He fishes with Eric House and yeah, they spend nights out. And John has, too. But Michael, who's 40, he's a day boat. He likes to get in at night and get a good night's sleep.

AC: And they all live in Chatham?

ML: They all live in Chatham, right.

AC: Do any of them run their own boats?

ML: They all have their own boat.

AC: They all have their own boat.

ML: Yeah. Everybody has their own boat. John has his own shellfishing boat.

AC: Ok.

ML: Michael has his own boat that he goes shellfishing out of. William has one boat that he goes dogfishing with, and another that he goes shellfishing with.

AC: So William's crewing?

ML: He crews and he has two boats.

AC: So he switches. Ok, so he's very busy.

ML: Yeah, he's got all kinds of stuff going on. Yeah.

AC: Tell me a little bit about your neighborhood. Would you describe this as a fishing community, or not?

ML: The current neighborhood that I live in, nobody fishes. Well, not really. The next-door neighbor's a schoolteacher and retired, then [there's] a vacation family. And the person across the street is a scientist, and another schoolteacher. Mostly there's a lot of retired people in my neighborhood.

AC: Ok.

ML: Yeah.

AC: How is fishing viewed by this community that's not [made up of] fishermen? How do they view fishing in general? Is there some connection to it? Do they understand what fishing is? What it means to Chatham or...

ML: The next-door neighbor, her husband used to be a fish buyer.

AC: Oh.

ML: So she's real familiar. Dean, who's behind us, used to fish. So he knows what's going on. This guy over here, his grandfather was a fisherman out of Chatham, so he understands. He's a scientist. And there's another neighbor, her father was a fisherman out of Provincetown. So yeah, there's other fishing people. John's father or grandfather was a fisherman.

TL: Grandfather and uncle..

ML: Grandfather and uncle, yeah. So they all kind of understand, yeah.

TL: Luther.

ML: Luther, yeah he used to. And we have boats in the yard and I asked if it bothers [them], and it never bothers [them]. They always say they like it.

TL: I forgot about Stewart's family.

ML: Stewart Smith? His family wasn't fishermen.

TL: As a wharf fisherman, though.

[06:18]

ML: Oh, he's a wharf fisherman, yeah.

AC: So the connection to the water is pretty strong.

ML: Yeah.

TL: Tell her about Hillary.

ML: Hillary? Teddy, this isn't your interview.

TL: What? I just forgot to say it.

AC: This is why we interview wives, because they think of these things. And why did you choose to settle here?

ML: Well, I love my neighborhood. Its nice and quiet, it's near the beach, [and] we've got a big garden. And it's kind of low-key here. That's why we like it. And we like our neighbors. We have really nice neighbors, so that's why we stay here.

AC: And Chatham in particular? Why did you choose to settle in Chatham?

ML: Well, he likes to fish out of [Chatham]. And they all need to stay in Chatham in order to have shellfish licenses. They have to live in the town of Chatham.

AC: Gotcha.

ML: So that's why they all stay here.

AC: Gotcha. Have you done any shellfishing yourself?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Seems like everyone on the Cape has been shellfishing.

ML: Yeah.

AC: It's an important part.

ML: I go. I've gone scalloping a few times and I always shuck for Teddy. I shuck the scallops. And I've gone clamming.

AC: Wow.

ML: Yeah.

AC: Do you enjoy that or is it just...?

ML: And I've gone fishing to.

AC: Is that because there was a need for you be there or...?

ML: No.

AC: Or you really wanted to be there...?

ML: No.

AC: Which one "no"?

ML: I just go when he asks me to go. And I don't really love it. It's just too much. It's too long out on the water for me. I don't like to be gone [when] I have the responsibilities of the dinners and taking care of all this other stuff and it just gets to be a little bit much.

AC: You probably have three boys coming over to eat more.

ML: I do.

AC: Are they here every evening or...?

ML: No.

AC: How often do you see them?

ML: John comes over quite frequently.

AC: Yeah.

ML: And I always make sure there's extra food. Its just so they have the feeling of some comfort, you know?

AC: That's great.

ML: Yeah.

AC: And [for] your social networks, do you socialize with other women who are wives of fishermen? Or have you made friends through the kids, with their parents? Are your circles in fishing or do you do something totally different? Are your friendships outside of fishing?

[09:04]

ML: I know everybody in the fishing industry.

AC: Ok.

ML: And I'm friends with them. I don't really socialize with them that much. My social life is the church that I go to and my yoga community.

AC: Ok.

ML: And I have a few friends, but I don't really hang out with the other fisherwomen folk. I don't have anything against them; I just don't have that much in common with them.

AC: Sure, that makes sense. What are your thoughts on your family's longer-term life plans? Have those changed over the last few years? I was telling Ted, things like retirement, living here but moving/not moving, etc. Have those sort of big life decisions changed for you guys?

ML: I have no control over what they do.

AC: Ok.

ML: You know, I worry about it all the time. It's a huge worry with me.

AC: Ok.

ML: With them, with how they're doing financially.

AC: With the kids?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Ok, the boys.

ML: The boys have no...

AC: Shouldn't say kids, they're men.

ML: No, they are men, you're right. I do worry about that.

AC: Yeah.

ML: You know, they have no savings. They've been reckless with their money. I think that they think they can always go clamming and make enough money. But they really haven't saved money. They've been [doing] not what I would have wanted. Not what I would have expected them to do.

AC: Ok, ok. And that's a big concern. You're a caring person.

ML: Yeah. Its been hard too because I have to realize that their intentions are different than [mine]. So I always think that they're going to have the intent of saving money and taking care of themselves. But then they do all of these things that lead me to believe that they're thinking differently than I do.

AC: Ok. And what was your input, in terms of them being involved in fisheries? Were you always sort of, "Whatever you guys want to do, I support?" Or were you really dead set against them fishing? Or did you just sort of let them make that decision? What were your thoughts on that?

ML: Oh, I had no say in it at all. They just took to it. They love it. You know, Willy always had asthma and he was always sick growing up. Now he's never sick with it, cause he's on the water all the time.

AC: Wow.

ML: I think Mike likes the water a lot. I mean, he's out there every day. And, I think sometimes its kind of hard on him. He's kind of tired. But John loves the water.

AC: Yeah.

[12:12]

ML: They can't wait to be out there. They love it.

AC: Seasickness has never been an issue for them?

ML: No.

AC: Guess they were pretty much raised on the water.

ML: Yeah, they were pretty much raised on the water. And, well they just love it. I guess that's how they figured they'd make money. I don't think they know any other way. They never ever looked at anything else. I don't know why, they just always think, "Well, if I need some money, I'll go fishing." You know what I mean?

AC: Gotcha.

ML: I mean, it was never like, "Well, I'll do something else." John did try. John used to make bikes, and he used to paint. He worked for a painter for a long time. And Willy also was trained to do carpentry.

AC: Yeah.

ML: And he's good at that.

AC: Yeah.

ML: And he's good at mechanics. And Michael finished school so he could work on cars.

AC: Ok.

ML: Just totally not interested.

AC: They just went right back to fishing?

ML: They went right back to fishing.

AC: Ok.

ML: They all had some skills that they could have worked on, right there. But, "I could make money clamming. I could make a couple hundred bucks a day and I'm out. I don't have to answer to anybody."

AC: Yeah, very cool. Now, did you come from a fishing family at all?

ML: No.

AC: No. No one in your family fished? So this was new to you?

ML: No, I came from Buffalo. My father worked in a factory.

AC: Ok.

ML: My mother was a nurse. I don't know that I would have married that if I had known...

AC: You were thrown into it cause you fell in love with a fisherman and the next thing you know, the whole family's in it.

ML: Yeah, its true.

AC: Now Riena, do you work full or part-time?

ML: No.

AC: Ok, so stay at home. And that's always been the case? Raising the boys and...?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Ok.

ML: Yeah.

AC: Did you assist in the fishing business in any way, in terms of your role? Did you do the bookkeeping for Ted or any things like that?

ML: I do everything.

AC: Ok, so for the fishing business...?

ML: For our fishing business?

AC: Yeah. Tell me how you're involved in that support role.

ML: I make sure he has breakfast, lunch, and dinner out on the water. And wash all of his clothes.

AC: Which is huge.

ML: Its huge, it really is. I make sure his fuel bills are paid, and all the taxes and everything are in order.

AC: The financial end of it.

ML: The financial end of it. I'm all into that.

AC: Ok.

[15:18]

ML: I handle all that.

AC: Has that always been the case?

ML: Yes.

AC: Ok.

ML: Always been the case. I handle the retirement, everything.

AC: A retirement account?

ML: Yeah.

AC: So you guys are planning for that?

ML: Oh yeah.

AC: Ok. Not a lot of people have, so that's good.

ML: We're good on that. We could retire already.

AC: Yeah.

ML: I mean, he doesn't need to do this; work as hard as he does.

AC: Is it for the love of it?

ML: Yeah.

AC: So he truly enjoys fishing.

ML: He loves [it]. He thinks when you quit fishing, you fall apart.

AC: Oh.

ML: It's true though. I mean, I just saw the doctor, who's Ted's age, and he's like falling apart. All the men that always worked [hard] and then quit, they just don't seem to [do well]. I guess Ted just looks at them and says, "Well, I'm not going to end up like that." He loves being out on the water.

AC: Wow.

ML: He's like totally into it. It's crazy.

AC: Now has his decision to be a fisherman influenced your career goals or your choices in that way? Did you postpone...?

ML: Absolutely. Yeah, cause everything is all about his fishing.

AC: Yeah.

ML: We're always fixing boats up and doing this and that. And yeah, I think I've given up a lot for his fishing career. [Even] just maintaining him. He's got Celiac's disease, so he can't eat any flour or he'll get really sick. So maintaining his health has been huge.

AC: Right.

ML: You know, making sure that he doesn't eat any crappy food.

AC: Right. And a lot of things have gluten.

ML: Yeah.

AC: I mean, most things do. So that's a huge job.

ML: It's a huge job, yeah.

AC: Now you mentioned earlier that you did yoga teacher training?

ML: Yeah, yeah.

AC: Is that something that's been recent?

ML: Yeah, I just graduated in June from it. John being sick lately has sort of been a monkey wrench, so I haven't really looked into getting some jobs in it.

AC: So what opened up in life for you to pursue that now? Or when you did get that certification, what opened up in your life to allow you to do that? Or was it a new idea for you?

ML: It was a new idea. I just started doing yoga two years ago.

AC: Ok.

ML: And then when they asked me if I wanted to do the teacher training, I said yeah.

AC: Wow.

[18:09]

ML: Yeah, it's great. It was really good.

AC: I'll take yoga from you any day of the week.

ML: Yeah, yeah.

AC: I'll drive down for it, cause you have a grace and presence that would make you a perfect teacher.

ML: Yeah, yeah.

AC: That's great. Now Ted fishes day trips, so he's never gone for weeks at a time out on the boat, is that correct?

ML: He's gone all the time. He goes at 3:00.

AC: Right.

ML: So [when] he's home, I have dinner ready for him. I wash his clothes, we get ready for the next day, he talks to the boys, and by 8 or 9:00 we're both dead, you know? I mean, it goes on.

AC: And how do you balance that? Where do you get your...

ML: I go to yoga.

AC: Ok. And you just have a rhythm for your day that allows you to do all the things you need to do to support the family?

ML: Yeah. Mow the lawn, everything.

AC: Gosh.

ML: I know. Yeah, it's a lot of work. He probably doesn't even realize what goes on, behind the scenes. I'm 'behind the scenes' girl.

AC: Right. Which is an integral role, because without that, he wouldn't be able to function.

ML: He wouldn't. And that's another thing I worry about with the boys. They don't have a wife or anything to do all that stuff; so it really cuts into their fishing time, you

know what I mean? Washing clothes and all that, having food on the table, paying the rent. Teddy doesn't have to pay rent, you know? I mean, they've got to pay rent.

AC: Cause you own the home?

ML: Yeah.

AC: You own this house?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Ok, right. Which I'm sure took awhile for you guys to do.

ML: No.

AC: It didn't? Fishing was good and you were able to pay off the house in a reasonable amount of time?

ML: We paid it off within a couple of years.

AC: Wow.

ML: It was \$65,000. We just went out scalloping and paid for the house. I went scalloping with Teddy. We just went, every day.

AC: Wow.

ML: Teddy couldn't get a loan. But I could, cause I had bought a car.

AC: Oh.

ML: And we went and we paid 18% on the loan. And everybody said we were crazy.

AC: Yeah.

ML: We'd get like a sock full of money from fishing. We'd put all of the money in a dirty old sock and I'd come in in these old jeans and put it on the table, and say, "Here, we've got it."

AC: Hey, money's money; dirty sock or not.

ML: Yeah, yeah.

AC: Wow, that's fascinating.

ML: Isn't that a funny story? Cause that's what we did. We paid through scalloping, in that little crappy little boat out there.

AC: Wow.

ML: We used to go out scalloping. And if we could make 3 or \$400, that was a lot of money back then. And we didn't go out to dinner, didn't smoke, didn't drink...

AC: Right, it went right to the house.

[21:26]

ML: It went right to the house. And everybody said, "Oh, you're crazy, don't do that."

My sister said, "Don't pay off your house, you can write it off on taxes."
I was like, "Yeah, right." She's still paying for her house. I'm like, "Ok."

AC: I don't want to rub it in or anything, but...

ML: Yeah, right.

AC: Wow.

ML: Pretty interesting, huh?

AC: It is, very much so. One of the questions is about being in a fishing family, and how that affects traditional gender roles at home. Does that affect traditional gender roles? Or has that changed over time? You're obviously the huge support network.

ML: Right.

AC: In terms of the business, do you feel that role has traditionally always been there, with women married to fishermen, or is that something that you...?

ML: Well, I try to break out of it, as much as I can.

AC: Yeah.

ML: Yeah, I try to break out, but its still there.

AC: Ok. Do you have any thoughts on sectors? Is there something that you've noticed about sector-based management that you would want to comment on? I mean, you don't need to know the background of all of it.

ML: I understand, I understand.

AC: If there's anything about...

ML: What bothers me is [that its not like how] we fished when Teddy was young.

AC: Yeah.

ML: He used to just go fishing. And if anybody wanted to go fishing, they just went fishing. They didn't have to get into a sector. They just went fishing and made their money.

And I feel really bad for the kids nowadays if they have to go through all of this rigmarole that we didn't have to. To deal with the computers, calling in and out, writing papers on where you fished and when. And if you're wrong, you get your hand slapped. Worrying about whether you're going to [need] this license or that license, cause you have to have so many different hats now to keep up with it. And I worry, you know, that the kids don't take it seriously enough.

AC: Gotcha.

ML: That's is.

AC: Ok. That's a lot.

ML: Yeah.

AC: Those are good points. And health insurance? I asked Teddy as well, but...

ML: We've got health insurance.

AC: So you cut and paid that direct?

ML: Yeah.

AC: And then Ted he said he did have boat insurance as well?

ML: Boat insurance, yeah.

[24:15]

AC: Any sort of thoughts on your friendships and relationships? You mentioned that you aren't friends with a lot of fishing wives; you don't really connect on that level. Ted

mentioned he had a few close friends that are fishermen. Do you feel like you have friendships with their wives? I don't know if they're married or not.

ML: No.

AC: Ok. So you just keep your social life very separate.

ML: Yeah, pretty much.

AC: Yeah.

ML: I just hardly know any of his friends' wives.

AC: You guys don't get together once in awhile for barbeques or something like that?

ML: No.

AC: Ok.

ML: We did do the 'Hooker's Ball.'

AC: Yeah.

ML: Hardly knew anybody there.

AC: Ok. Is that a big event for the fishing industry?

ML: No, it supports the Hook Fishermen's Association.

AC: Ok.

ML: We hardly knew anybody there. There were hardly any fishermen.

AC: More of a community event?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Outside community members coming out?

ML: Yeah.

AC: And that's annual?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Ok. How about your well being right now; your general outlook on life? Has that changed over the last few years for you?

ML: I'm fine.

AC: Ok.

ML: I'm fine. I'm not having any problems.

AC: Fishing hasn't trickled into your [personal life]?

ML: I try to keep out of the fishing.

AC: Ok.

ML: I try not to talk about it too much.

AC: Ok.

ML: I try to have him leave it [at work].

AC: Yeah.

ML: You know, not talk about it a ton. Cause you have to have a balance in your life.

AC: So Ted doesn't sort of download his day onto you when he comes home?

ML: He downloads it whether I like it or not. Yeah, that's a good way of putting it; downloading a day.

AC: You hear about his feelings and his thoughts.

ML: Yeah.

AC: Ok. So you kind of just let him process it as much as you can, but you don't let it internally affect your well being?

ML: Right.

AC: Ok. Part of the reason I'm asking that is because they want to know is how families have been affected by fishing. In general, it's a tough life. You know, its rife with controversies and management and there's a lot of complexities to fisheries. So one of the things that this project wants to know is, do any of those complexities trickle

down into the family and into the relationships? How does it affect dynamics at home and that kind of thing? So it's more [to get] a sense of how it affects people's lives, beyond being on the water. And on an individual level, which it certainly affects Ted in many ways. That's who he is largely, but how does it trickle down into life? Any sort of thoughts regarding that?

[27:33]

ML: Well, I sort of put a fence around it. Cause I can't cope with it. I'm trying to break out of it and just have my own thing that I do. You know, with my yoga people and just getting out and doing other things; other than that.

AC: So hanging out with other fishermen's wives probably wouldn't help that, because you'd be brought back into it when you're trying to stay a little bit out of it.

ML: Exactly.

AC: Ok.

ML: Well, they really haven't been that friendly with me. I don't really know any other wives of fishermen.

AC: Right.

ML: I really don't. And I don't see his crewman's wife very much. Well, he's not even married to her.

AC: Ok.

ML: So I mean, all of the men are single I guess. Yeah.

AC: Ok. How about any sort of health issues? And health issues like Ted mentioned, can also be mental health, in terms of just stress or tensions. Have you seen any of those kinds of health issues in the fishing community or in Ted?

ML: Well, I don't think he's completely OCD fishing. I think he just like overdoses on it.

AC: Yeah.

ML: And it's unbalanced. That's what I think.

AC: Ok.

ML: And I don't know whether we need to be that like "over balanced" on it.

AC: And especially [since] it's not particularly necessary for income and survival at this stage, cause you've done a great job of creating a nest egg.

ML: Yeah, right.

AC: Something you'd like to see, is maybe, "Hey, lets lighten off it a little."

ML: Yeah.

AC: Have you mentioned retiring to him? Even though it sounds like he won't.

ML: I'm trying to get him to go to Costa Rica.

AC: Very nice.

ML: Just for a weekend.

AC: Yeah.

ML: Just for a week.

AC: Yeah.

ML: You know, do some other stuff.

AC: This winter?

ML: Yeah. Just do something else.

AC: Sure.

ML: Yeah.

AC: And has it been harder to do things together over the last few years than before? I mean, he's been fishing for a long time. Have you seen changes in your time together? And the things you can do together? Is there less time for it?

ML: Well, the last trip, we went down to Florida and he wanted to fish a lot. And I really didn't want to fish that much. So it was kind of like, "You want to go what?" You know, he thinks everything revolves around fishing. And I have to say, "Well, you know, maybe I want to go shopping."

AC: Sure. He's like, "There's stuff beyond fishing?"

ML: Yeah, you've got that right.

AC: And has he changed over the last few years in your eyes?

ML: Yeah, I think it's really hard. I think we work harder than we used to. Don't you Teddy?

TL: What?

ML: I think we work harder than we used to.

TL: Oh, much harder.

ML: It seems like we used to take weekends off and relax.

TL: Yeah.

ML: Now we're working harder. And the kids are grown. It just seems weird.

[31:17]

AC: You were thinking with the kids being grown, that you would kind of be relaxing more?

ML: Yeah.

AC: Ok.

ML: And I'm taking care of my 86-year-old mother, too. So I've got her and John.

AC: And is she in Buffalo still?

ML: No, she lives down here. I had her move here.

AC: Ok.

ML: Cause no one was taking care of her.

AC: Ok.

ML: So, yeah, we've got more to do than we used to.

AC: And is there something that you would want to leave people with; an impression or your view on being a fishing family for so long?

ML: [I wish] I had something really profound to say, but I don't.

AC: No pressure.

ML: I look at other people and how they live their lives. They have to work at a factory or drive to Boston every day, or they're living in the city. And when you cross over the bridge [here], you can breathe fresh air. It's just like this air that you can't get anywhere else. You can smell that salt air.

AC: Cause its just around you on all sides.

ML: Yeah. It's the salty air that you don't even realize until you're [somewhere else]. Like when we went to New Orleans, it was like, "How do these people breathe here? Its so hot."

So it's just really nice here. I think if you work really hard at it and you [aren't] really frivolous with your money, you're probably better off to fish.

[33:33]

AC: Ok. Would you trade it, if you could go back in time; make Ted an executive in a high-rise or a fireman?

ML: Then he'd be fat and stupid. No, seriously. I look at the other men that look like that and they all have this unhealthy aura about them.

AC: Yeah.

ML: They don't look right. They never use their body. When they're like Teddy's age, they've got a gut the size of a basketball. And they just don't have a life. Their life force is gone.

AC: Do you think the ocean has a part in that? Or is it the trade of fishing?

ML: I just think it's the physical work.

AC: Physical work.

ML: Physical work and not being around chemicals all the time; chemicals and deadlines and people expecting stuff from you. I guess there's a price to pay for our retirement. There's a trade-off for everything you do.

AC: So you're happy with your lot at this stage in life?

ML: Yeah, I'm having a good time.

AC: Ok. Any other thoughts or impressions before we conclude, Riena?

ML: No, as long as I don't pay attention to Teddy. I'm having a good time.

AC: See, this brings up a lot of new things. This is good. Was there a highlight moment in your life, relating to fisheries, that you remember? I'm not putting pressure on you.

ML: I had some fun times going fishing with Teddy.

AC: Ok.

ML: Going out, seeing the water; dogfishing and scalloping and stuff. There were some really fun times out there. Yeah, all kinds of magical things happened out there; sunrises you couldn't get that anywhere else.

AC: Nice.

ML: Yeah.

[36:11]

AC: Not many people on the earth get to experience that.

ML: I think one of the most fun things is when we were out fishing and a whale was up next to our boat. It was so foggy that you couldn't see like 15 feet away. And you could hear the whale feeding.

AC: Oh my goodness.

ML: I've never heard that sound on television or anywhere else; it sounded like a monster. But then you knew it wasn't a monster; it was this whale, making this happy sound cause it was really enjoying what it was eating.

AC: Wow.

ML: I guess that's one of the highlights.

AC: That's a great highlight.

ML: Never saw it, but you knew it was right next to the boat. How far was it?

TL: It was right next to you, honey.

ML: It was right next to me.

AC: Now was there ever a point when all of you guys were on a boat at the same time?

ML: All I can remember was when we were all shellfishing with Mike and the boat was sinking. And we didn't have any life jackets on the boat.

AC: Did you chuck Mike over, or the shellfish?

ML: [We had] like 15 bushels on this little boat.

AC: Oh my goodness.

ML: We were coming out from Monomoy. The Coast Guard stopped us and just sort of let us go. They said, "God, they're so stupid!"

TL: They knew me. Just threw up their hands like, "Oh!"

AC: That's a good memory.

ML: Yeah.

AC: You guys made it home, obviously.

ML: We had to swim to shore.

TL: How about that time we took all the kids scupping?

ML: Yeah, we used to take the kids scupping.

TL: The whole family.

ML: Michael, too?

TL: Michael used to go, but didn't go then.

ML: Yeah.

TL: Back when we were scupping.

AC: Was this when you had the *West Wind*?

ML: No, [just a] little skiff.

AC: Oh.

ML: The little skiff out there.

AC: With the whole family out there. Very cool.

TL: Well, Michael didn't go. He used to go scupping with me, but he was ten years older than the two boys. So he had no intentions of ever going scupping again. But I remember John was so little that he would pull the scup and it would pull his line back down.

AC: Do you remember this, Riena?

ML: Yeah.

AC: So it's fresh in your memory?

ML: Oh yeah. Its fun.

AC: Those are good things to remember.

ML: Yeah, it was fun.

TL: We'd call it John's epic battles. Remember that? Epic battles with each scup.

ML: He was cute. He was so adorable.

AC: Well, that's great. That's a very good, happy thought to end on, too.

[39:15]

ML: Yeah.

TL: Remember we used to put Willy in a scallop tote?

ML: Oh, yeah. There was one time we were out scalloping and somebody crossed over our dredge line; they were going too close to us. And Teddy wouldn't cut the line

cause he didn't want to lose his dredge. He was mad at him for going across us. Do you know the story, Teddy?

TL: You were there.

ML: So Willy was in the scallop tote; he was a baby. I guess he was maybe a year old. And these guys were sinking their boat, and Teddy's on the [radio] saying, "Bail your boat, bail your boat!"

AC: Yeah.

ML: And the guys were jumping back and forth, swearing like troopers. They couldn't get it together to bail their boat. So their boat sank and then they jumped on our boat.

AC: Goodness.

ML: Teddy was so mad.

AC: What did these guys say when they saw Willy in a tote?

ML: They were just like in shock.

AC: 'Cause they lost their boat, right.

ML: They lost the boat.

AC: Him being in a tote was no big deal compared to losing their boat.

ML: Right.

TL: And then while we were shucking and not looking, Willy'd crawl under the garbage can and eat the scallop guts. We'd look over and it'd be hanging out of his mouth, in the garbage can. And we'd pull him out of the garbage can.

ML: We should have known. Poor Willy. He never had a chance not to be in a fishing family.

AC: That's it right there. You can't compare with that. Land life would be very dull compared to those adventures.

ML: He couldn't do it.

AC: Would you choose anything else?

ML: He was like a year and a half, in a scallop tote.

TL: He was in a scallop tote, covered in blankets.

ML: We had to pay for the house.

TL: He was too young to leave any place.

ML: Oh yeah, he was too young. I was still nursing.

TL: Yeah, that's why you had to take him.

AC: Well, that's a good memory.

ML: Yeah, that's a good memory. It was fun.

AC: Very nice.

ML: Lots of good memories fishing.

TL: And when she was pregnant with John, I used to go scalloping behind Turtle Island. I would have to tow beyond Turtle Island because my friend Ed was going to come down with a white flag and wave it if Rienna went into labor. I'd tow behind Turtle Island, and then in front of Turtle Island to see if Ed was there.

AC: Really?

[42:21]

TL: Yeah.

AC: Did you ever get the white flag?

TL: No, no.

ML: That was before cell phones.

AC: Ok.

ML: Remember?

AC: Actually, I don't.

ML: Because now its such a part of us.

AC: Yeah, such a part of us.

ML: Yeah. Before we even had cell phones.

AC: Yeah.

ML: I don't know whether it's an improvement. I think it is. I think cell phones are great. It's a big improvement.

AC: Well, I'm sure for communicating with him, while he's on the water.

ML: Yeah.

AC: That must be nice.

ML: Yeah.

AC: Well, Riena, thank you very, very much.

ML: You're welcome.

AC: It was extremely interesting. Thank you. Again, this is August 22, 2012. I'm here with Riena.

ML: Marie.

AC: Marie Ligenza. Excuse me, Marie Ligenza, which I didn't know. In Chatham, MA. Thank you!

ML: Alrighty.

[43:11]

END INTERVIEW

